

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 25-49 remain pending in the application. The Office Action states that the withdrawn claims 42-46 have been reconsidered as claim 42 is generic to the elected species. In summary, Applicants have amended the claims to replace the “threaded portions” with “threads” in accordance with the “Response to Arguments” section of the Outstanding Office Action. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the present amendments and following remarks. The above amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Outstanding Office Action. Upon entry of these amendments and consideration of these remarks, Applicants submit that all of the pending Claims will be allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-16, 25-39, 41-43 and 45-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Paullus et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 3,901,574). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the present claim amendments.

Each of the claims have been amended to replace the “threaded portion” with a “thread” to more clearly indicate that discrete threads of different pitches are employed by the claimed invention. The Outstanding Office Action states that the “ramps are not threads; however, the claims do not call for threads but rather threaded portions ...” Accordingly, the claims have been amended to include discrete “threads” rather than “threaded portions.” Since Paullus et al. does not teach or disclose discrete threads, Claims 1-39, 41, and 47-49 cannot be anticipated. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present rejections be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 40 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paullus et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 3,901,574) in view of Mattingly et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 5,383,272). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the present claim amendments.

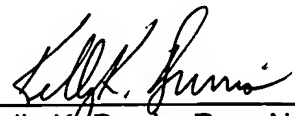
For at least the reasons stated above in connection with Claims 1-39, 41, and 47-49, i.e., the "threaded portions" have been replaced with discrete "threads," Claims 40 and 44 cannot be obvious and the Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7524.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Kelly K. Burris, Reg. No. 46,361

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
7700 Bonhomme Avenue, Suite 400
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
(314) 726-7500
KKB/lds